

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

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MOONWORT

(*Botrychium lunaria*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered

Description:

Moonwort is a tiny, rubbery, almost-white fern that grows from 1 to 6 inches tall.

About halfway up the stem the plant splits into two branches, one containing three to five pairs of fan-shaped leaflets, and the other bearing rust-colored spore cases.

Habitat: In

Wisconsin, moonwort is found in cool northern hardwood forests. It also grows on the edges of shrub stands or red cedar woodlands, near native prairies, in open prairies and dunes.



Forestry Considerations: Moonwort is fragile and especially susceptible to trampling. Where moonwort has been found, care should be taken to avoid disturbing the habitat, especially during the growing season. Selective harvest of trees during the winter can be compatible with the continued existence of moonwort.

